

# News Bulletin (Issue 22)

May - August 2020



*"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" Isaiah 55:12*

## PROJECT NEWS

### Dry forest project activities restart as quarantine eases



Cañoncillo Forest (Image: P Lopez Vargas, 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the dry forest project. With a country-wide relaxing of quarantine that officially ended on June 30, people are searching their new normal. Many areas in the country continue to maintain strict measures of quarantine, but other parts of the country have seen a relaxation to the measures that have been instituted in the country.

Due to the introduction of a state of national emergency issued by the Peruvian government, all project field activities, meetings and workshops in La Libertad were suspended.

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### Expanding our conservation efforts in northern Peru

## EVENTS

### Connecting Environmental Educators!



From June 23-26 our communications and fundraising officer, Filipa Brasch, participated in the Environmental Education Conference organised by A Rocha International. There were 26 environmental educators from 15 countries and it was the first virtual conference that allowed A Rocha to go global and low carbon! The conference provided a platform to hear about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, share knowledge, experiences and resources and catch up on important issues of global importance. It was a successful learning experience which was shared with the A Rocha Peru team. Going forward, A Rocha Perú hopes to create an environmental education program for Perú.

### Protecting forests and nature: a moral and spiritual imperative



La Yuca in San Pedro de Lloc (Image: C Allan)

To build on our mission and expand our impact, A Rocha Peru is planning a number of new initiatives to help protect the environment and create long-lasting conservation solutions in Peru:

- the Dry Forest Program (PBS) which aims to restore and conserve dry forests in northern Peru. The Dry Forest Project of Pacasmayo is the first phase of the Dry Forest Program and the program will seek to extend the activities of our project in Pacasmayo to other places in the northern macro-region including the Calipuy National Reserve, La Libertad and the restoration of the dry forest ecosystem in the regional conservation area in Salitral Huarmaca, Piura.
- a stewardship of creation program in La Libertad aiming to sensitize and involving the members of churches and Christian institutions through seminars or conferences on the importance of God's creation

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### Community Voices

From the perspectives of communities, success is not only about the number of trees planted, it is also about the ability to enhance livelihoods, to strengthen existing community relationships and to build new ones and to develop a conservation ethic among younger generations. Here is one of the community voices from Pacasmayo's dry forest project.

**Carlos Cruzado Centurión** from Portada de la Sierra signed an agreement to protect 0.33 hectares of deforested land and in November last year. Carlos helped to reforest this area by planting 40 native seedlings with his planting team. "Reforestation my area has brought me many benefits, mainly for the bees that I have been raising for a couple of years now. When they bloom, they will make it easier for the bees to feed and you will see a beautiful forest." However, the COVID-19 pandemic with government restrictions have impacted his ability to monitor and water the reforested area. "I had to come another way to see my plants and now with the easing restrictions we can resume the monitoring and watering tasks." Despite this, Carlos remains committed to creating an impact. "When I see my plants growing, I feel happy because I know that I am generating a change even if it is small, it gives me the satisfaction that my children will see and be proud of me."



On July 30, our Board President, María de los Angeles La Torre Cuadros, spoke at a conference organised by IRI Perú (Iniciativa Interreligiosa para los Bosques Tropicales). The event titled, "Protecting forests and nature - a moral and spiritual imperative", discussed the preservation of forests and the environment in Latin America and the need for an approach that transcends religious differences given that it is a responsibility we all share. IRI Perú also shared a Resource Guide on Forest Protection that will contribute to achieve the global forest goals set by the UN. Listen to the '[Protecting the Forests: A moral and spiritual imperative' conversation](#).



**GIVE A GIFT**



A Rocha Perú, continues to provide a platform on our website to purchase Gifts with a Difference that support our Dry Forest project with its reforestation efforts, giving low-income farmers and community members native trees. A water-absorbing gel applied at the roots allows the tree seedlings and saplings to better retain the limited water in the soil, increasing their survival rate to 95%. Show someone you care by giving a [Gift with a Difference](#) of native desert trees that brings hope for people, wildlife and nature!

## PUBLICATIONS



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors and supports for 2020. These include Interaction Foundation, A Rocha International, Watersheds Foundation, and a number of individual donors from across the world. Without your support the delivery of these projects would not be possible!



Mery Pinglo and her new kitchen, Tecapa

## Climate Stewards

We are delighted to announce we have secured funding from Climate Stewards to progress with the Improved Cookstove Pilot Project, Phase 1 that has been approved. This will help install 20 improved cookstoves in the communities surrounding the Dry Forest Project areas in Pacasmayo, comprising the Dry Forests of el Cañoncillo, La Yuca, and Tronco Prieto. This will enable the purchase of 263 'carbos' i.e. tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e saved ex-ante, at a rate of £23.22 per tonne. The pilot will start from 1st August 2020 and ARPE will supervise and monitor the project.

### [READ MORE](#)

ARPE has also been fortunate to secured an organisations donation for three years starting in 2021 which will help support the Dry Forest Project for 2021. We also continue to engage in fundraising activities online through the GlobalGiving platform which will allow us to continue raising funds for our Dry Forest Project.

We are so grateful for the generosity of all our donors that enable us to help communities to conserve and protect the coastal dry forests in northern Peru. Thank you! We invite you to continue sharing our link for our current campaign for the [Dry Forest](https://goto.gg/40324): (<https://goto.gg/40324>).

## TEAM NEWS



We are pleased to welcome a new member to the A Rocha Peru team. José Verano, who first joined as a volunteer in January 2019, will now act as our new Project Field Technician. Read more about our current [team members](#).

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all our volunteers who have provided time and energy to our projects. They are (in alphabetical order): Hannah Wilkinson



Read all the latest news from A Rocha International with key themes including environmental education, science and conservation across a range of A Rocha organisations worldwide. The latest publication includes an article on our very own dry forest project. Download the latest publication, [A Rocha International Review 2018-19](#).

Also check out the latest entries on their [Planetwise Blog](#) including an interesting post, [Please build back better!](#)



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and Marcos Muñoz. Marcos will be our new volunteer intern.



August 12th is International Youth Day! This year's theme is "Youth Commitment for Global Action" to celebrate and incorporate the voices, actions and initiatives of young people and their meaningful, universal and equitable commitment. On this day, listen to the podcast-style discussion organized by young people for young people, or join independently organized commemorations around the world. [Find out more.](#)

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